

GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA



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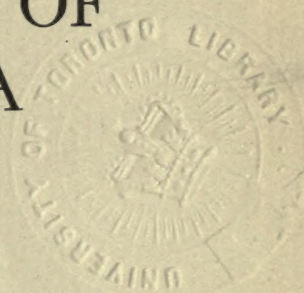


Univ.  
Penn.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

AND

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA



By

HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT

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WASHINGTON RECEIVING HIS DIPLOMA

JOHN DICKINSON, FRANCIS HOPKINSON, PROVOST EWING, GENERAL WASHINGTON



## GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Upon a wall in the Library of the University of Pennsylvania there hangs a photograph of the diploma given to George Washington in 1783 when he was made a Doctor of Laws. For some strange reason nothing has ever been written about this important event or of Washington's connection with the University. Few know how intimate this was and no doubt believe the honour conferred upon so great a man was perfunctory and the natural outcome of hero-worship. It will be interesting, therefore, to see how well he knew the institution and its men, and how both entered into his career. The minutes of the Board of Trustees are distressingly meager at this time, which may be proof of their dignity or that the times were too crowded with events of national importance to elaborate upon their own affairs. Indeed the sessions of the University were frequently interrupted during this troublesome period. Its buildings and yard were used

by Colonial troops, the British occupation of Philadelphia put a stop to its classes and upon their retirement in 1778 the Congress of the United States met in the College Hall until the State House was cleansed and repaired.

The Trustees were in no hurry to give Washington his degree as the date indicates, but they addressed him formally in 1781 upon his victory over Cornwallis. Harvard and Yale Universities presented him with an honorary degree earlier in his career although he is not known to have visited them at that time or to have attended any of their lectures, both of which he did at Pennsylvania upon more than one occasion.

It is reasonable to suppose that Washington's first sight of the Academy and of a large city, the largest indeed and the most prosperous on the continent, was in 1756 when he journeyed to Boston on horseback to settle the dispute about the command of the army to resist the Indians on the frontier. The *Pennsylvania Journal* and the *Gazette* tell us of his arrival in Philadelphia on February 6th. He visited Governor Morris and fitted himself out as his expenditures to the tailor, hatter, jeweler and saddler show. Benjamin Franklin, the President of the Board of Trustees, and Provost Smith must have shown him some attention during his ten days' visit as they were among the most distinguished citizens, and it was the custom at the Academy to entertain



important visitors. On his return in March he lodged with Mr. Woods and went to the Assembly Ball.

He was present at Commencement in 1775 and 1782 and while presiding over the Constitutional Convention in 1787 accompanied his hostess, Mrs. Robert Morris, to a reading for charity in College Hall on May 18th. When James Wilson opened the law school, President Washington attended his introductory lecture in College Hall on December 15th, 1790. These are the visits definitely recorded, though no doubt there were many others as he spent much time in Philadelphia from 1775 to the close of the century, lived near to the University and was surrounded with intimates who were graduates or patrons. On three occasions at least the Trustees and Faculty waited upon him in a body, as we shall see. He spoke to them of his earnest desire to encourage all seminaries of learning, of his inexpressible happiness at being able to contribute toward the re-establishment of the University after the disturbance of war and of his desire to be considered the friend and patron of the arts and sciences. He saw the power of the college man in the framers of the Declaration of Independence and the makers of our Constitution and knew that many of them were University of Pennsylvania men. His great desire for a national university is well known and perhaps it may have had its origin in the intimacy he enjoyed and the honours he received from the



institution founded by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia.

On account of the presence of the Continental Congress, the Commencement of 1775 was a notable one. Many of the delegates were at home in the College Hall for they had been a part of the institution, and two of them, Franklin and Mifflin, Trustees, were appointed a committee of reception. Allen, Mifflin, John and Lambert Cadwalader, Peters, Bingham and Smith, of Pennsylvania; Hopkinson, Neilson and Sergeant, of New Jersey; Paca, Seney and Hindman, of Maryland; Williamson and Hill, of North Carolina; Dickinson, of Delaware; Marchant, of Rhode Island; Grayson, of Virginia, and Ramsay, of South Carolina, all knew the place and it was dear to them. We can imagine their reminiscences and the pranks they recounted to their distinguished colleagues as the assemblage gathered. Some perhaps had appeared in the "Masque of Alfred" performed by the students in January of 1757 in honour of Lord Loudoun and the Governors of several of the Colonies, who were in Philadelphia consulting upon plans for common resistance to the Indians. Some grew enthusiastic, no doubt, as they pointed out the course, about the square, taken by young Samuel Lewis, of Virginia, in 1770 when he won the championship at foot-racing. There may have been some in the company who had led the assault with apples upon the windows and new street lamps in 1752 which

caused a formal entry upon the minutes of the Trustees "that a small Ladder be bought, to be always at hand for the Conveniency of mending the windows."

As a member of the Congress came Colonel George Washington, a delegate from Virginia, who was to be called within a month to the command of his country's army. He lodged at Dr. Shippen's and was entertained at Andrew and James Allen's, James Tilghman's, Thomas Mifflin's, William Hamilton's, John Dickinson's, Benjamin Chew's, Thomas Willing's, Dr. Cadwalader's, General Cadwalader's, Thomas Wharton's, Dr. Rush's and at other homes of University men. He wore his uniform because it was the best suit he had and it consisted of a blue coat, scarlet waistcoat and breeches. And so Washington first appeared at the University in the colors it now holds so dear.

On Monday, May 15th, 1775, the following advertisement appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet*:

"\* \* \* The COMMENCEMENT for degrees in the ARTS will begin at the COLLEGE, on Wednesday next at nine o'clock; and the business will be finished in the forenoon. That there may be the more room for strangers in the HALL, the worthy inhabitants of the City are requested to accommodate themselves (as far as they conveniently can) in the GALLERIES; the doors of which will be opened at half an hour PAST Eight o'clock."

The account of the Commencement is given in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of May 22d, 1775 :

“College of Philadelphia, May 17, 1775.

This day the public Commencement for Graduation in the Arts was held here, in the presence of the most illustrious assembly this Seminary ever beheld.

About half an hour after nine o'clock, agreeable to an invitation previously given to them, the Honorable members of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS were pleased to proceed in a body from the State House to the College, where they were received at the gate by the Provost and conducted to places prepared for their reception in the *Hall*. As soon as they were seated, the *Trustees*, with the Governor as President at their head, followed by the Provost, Vice-Provost, Professors, Graduates and other students, in their proper habits, entered the Hall, took their places; the Galleries and other parts of the house being filled with as many of the respectable inhabitants of the City as could find room. The business then proceeded in the following ORDER, viz :

1. Part of the Church service, with an occasional Prayer, by the Provost.
2. An Anthem, accompanied with the organ and other instrumental music.
3. Latin Salutatory Oration, de Amicitia, by Henry Ridgley.



4. On the *Education of Young Ladies*, by Francis Brown Sappington.
5. Latin Syllogistic Dispute, *Utrum detur Sensus Moralis?* Respondent, William Moore Smith; Opponents, Benjamin Chew and John Mifflin.
6. On *Ancient Eloquence*, by Thomas Ennals.
7. On *Politeness*, by John Mifflin.
8. On the *Fall of Empires*, by William Moore Smith.
9. The degrees were then conferred as follows, viz:  
Bachelor of Arts—Benjamin Chew, \*Townsend Eden,  
\*Thomas Ennals, John Farrel, John Mifflin, \*Henry  
Ridgley, \*Francis Brown Sappington, and William  
Moore Smith.

*\*\* The young Gentlemen whose names are marked with an asterisk (thus \*) are of Maryland, the others of Philadelphia.*

Samuel Armor, John Park and John Thomas.

Honorary Master of Arts, James Ross.

10. A Dialogue and two Odes set to music. The speakers in the Dialogue were John Farrel, F. B. Sappington and W. M. Smith.
11. Valedictory Oration—B. Chew.
12. CHARGE to the Graduates, by the Provost.
13. *Concluding Prayer*, by the Vice-Provost.

The Condescension of the Gentlemen Delegates, who thought it not unworthy of them, amid their other arduous

concerns, to devote a few hours towards the encouragement of *youth* in literary pursuits, and the great generous applause given by them, as well as the audience in general, to the different speakers and to their exercises, especially such of them as had a reference to the present state of our public affairs, are circumstances which will be long remembered as honorable to the Seminary. At the desire therefore of some very respectable names, and also that the principles constantly propagated in this Seminary may be known to the whole world, all those parts of the exercises which touched on matters of a public nature, are herewith communicated."

In the next issue of the *Packet*, May 29, 1775, the speeches on "Ancient Eloquence," "Fall of Empires," the Valedictory and the Charge of the Provost are given.

"The Fall of Empires" by the son of Dr. Smith caused the audience to break "forth into one loud and general plaudit" when he cried out, "Liberty is our idol! She is the parent of virtue, the guardian of innocence, and the terror of vice! Equal laws, security of property, true religion, wisdom, magnanimity, arts and sciences are her lovely offspring!" Listening to this oration and to others of like sentiment we can imagine Washington's heart responding warmly to the spirit of the occasion. How enthusiastic he must have felt for the College that was instilling into its youth the principles he heard so ardently proclaimed that day in May of

1775 when he was on the threshold of the consecration of his life to the ideals it taught!

Washington soon had further evidence of the patriotic attitude of the University he had visited. On the 23rd of June he attended Christ Church with the members of the Continental Congress, the officers of the Third Battalion of Philadelphia Militia, Colonel John Cadwalader commanding, and a "vast concourse of people" to hear a sermon by Provost William Smith. It was on the "Present Situation of American Affairs" and laid down certain moral and political principles, leaving the obvious application to the distinguished gentlemen in the audience. This sermon caused much comment and was considered a patriotic call to the liberties of America.

Washington heard again from Dr. Smith when on July 11th, 1789, in New York City he presented him with the diploma of Washington College, Maryland, conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

The ceremony of the commencement to which Washington listened was the last public one until 1779. The commencement of 1776 was a private one on June 10th. The buildings and yard were filled with militia and the classes discontinued. The Trustees did not meet on account of "public alarms." The Faculty complained that their lecture and even bed-rooms were forced open and that there were "hundreds of soldiers quartered in the College at one time."



There were many of the University's men in the Revolution. Ten of them had signed the Declaration of Independence. This is not the place to enumerate them, but it may be well to tell of a few who stood near to Washington, were dear to him, whom he trusted and who helped him win. It is fitting to begin with that unique figure whom many consider the greatest American of all time.

For Benjamin Franklin, the Founder of the University, Washington formed an early attachment. Indeed it was Franklin, as one of a committee of three sent by Congress in 1775, who framed the plan, with the Commander-in-Chief, at Cambridge for putting the defence of the country upon a permanent basis. The scheme was a continental army which enabled Washington to carry on a seven years' war, and through Franklin's later efforts in Paris, to carry it to a successful conclusion. Washington wrote to him afar off in Passy in 1781, virtually telling him that it lay with him to save his country if she was to be saved at all. It is Washington's words that are cut in the base of the Franklin Statue in Philadelphia on the site of the one time University buildings:

"Venerated for Benevolence

Admired for Talents

Esteemed for Patriotism

Beloved for Philanthropy."

He wrote to him from

Mount Vernon Sep<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1785.

Dear Sir,

Amid the public gratulations on your safe return to America after a long absence, and the many eminent services you have rendered it - for which as a benefited person I feel the obligation - permit an individual to join the public voice in expressing his sense of them; and to assure you, that as no one entertains more respect for your character, so none can salute you with more sincerity, or with greater pleasure than I do on the occasion.

I am - Dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> and

Most Aff<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

G. Washington

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>

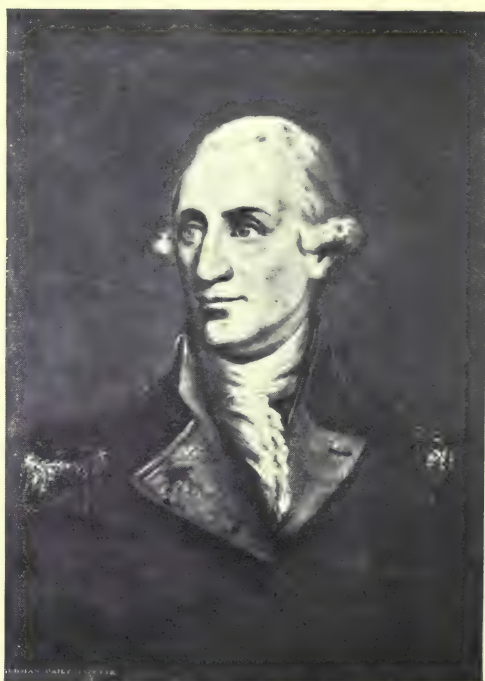
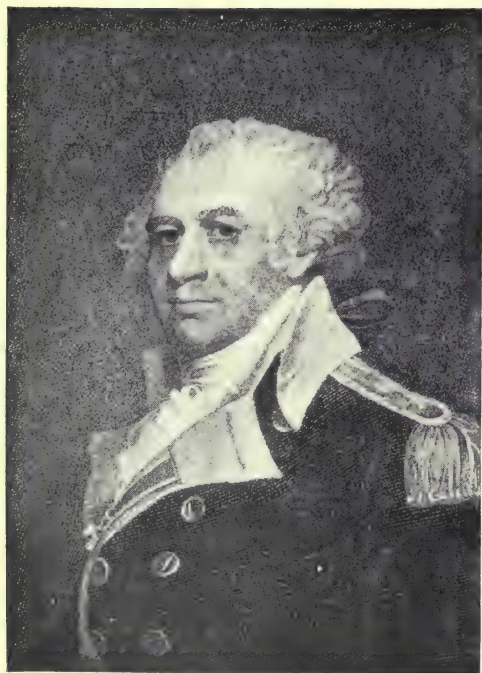
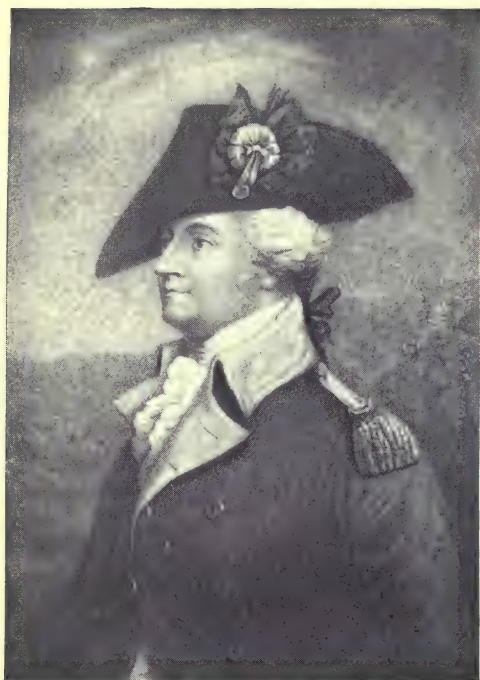
Doct<sup>r</sup> Franklin.

The splendid figure of Washington which stands in the Capitol at Richmond is due to Franklin's selection of Houdon to execute the commission voted by the State of Virginia.

Anthony Wayne, of the Class of 1766, was the most picturesque figure of the Revolution and one of the finest soldiers America has produced. He was also an Assemblyman and sat in the Pennsylvania Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States. Washington's reliance upon him is indicated by the account of every battle in which he was engaged where "Wayne led the advance." On June 24th, 1778, Washington invited his generals to a council at Hopewell, New Jersey, and after explaining to them the conditions of his own force and that of the enemy, asked if it would be advisable to hazard a general action. Sixteen generals were gathered and all answered against such an action with considerable explanation until it came to Anthony Wayne. Washington then said to him, "What would you do, General?" He arose in his place and replied with emphasis, "Fight, sir." The Battle of Monmouth was the result. He served with distinction in nearly every important engagement from Canada in the North to Georgia in the South and after the war Washington made him Commander-in-Chief of the American Army. In this position he conquered the middle and northwest and secured for civilization the territory between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Upon the center of the outer line at Valley Forge stands a noble equestrian statue of General Wayne. It is where he stood on that hallowed campground and the place he held upon







ANTHONY WAYNE  
THOMAS MIFFLIN

PHILEMON DICKINSON  
J. P. G. MUHLENBERG

many a field of battle. There is no commonwealth in America but has a county or town bearing his name.

John Cadwalader, of the Class of 1760, after serving as a member of the Provisional Congress, took command of the "Silk Stocking Company" in Philadelphia before which Provost Smith delivered his celebrated address in Christ Church in 1775. He soon rose to be a Brigadier-General, meriting the report of Washington in which he said, "General Cadwalader is a man of ability, a good disciplinarian, a man of good principles and of intrepid bravery." He was always an enthusiastic supporter of Washington and fought a duel in his behalf with Conway, author of the "Cabal," whose purpose was to substitute General Gates as Commander-in-Chief. Cadwalader badly wounded Conway, who apologized to Washington and left the country. In 1779 he became a Trustee. A brother, Lambert, of the same class, was a member of the Provincial Convention and Continental Congress. He was a Captain and Colonel of Pennsylvania Militia in the Revolution.

Robert Morris held intimate relations with General Washington as financier of the Revolution. He was a Trustee of the College, a signer of the Declaration, member of the Constitutional Convention and State Assemblyman. His relations with Washington and his confidence in him were so great that he met his every demand to his utmost ability, pledging his personal credit without hesitation. "The United



States may command all that I have except my integrity,' was his patriotic statement. He was the first United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

Thomas Mifflin graduated in 1760. He soon took an interest in public affairs and became a member of the Provincial Assembly and Continental Congress. Although a member of the Society of Friends, he enlisted for the defense of Pennsylvania as a major upon the outbreak of hostilities. When Washington became Commander-in-Chief of the American Army, Mifflin was the first aide-de-camp he chose and soon after he appointed him Quartermaster-General "from a thorough persuasion of his integrity and my own experience of his activity." He quickly rose to be a Major-General and Congress maintained implicit confidence in him by almost unlimited financial support while he was Quartermaster-General. He became, indeed, President of Congress and received Washington's resignation in the historic scene at Annapolis after the war. As Mifflin rose in fame and position he was drawn into a critical attitude toward Washington and was suspected of being a party to the Conway Cabal. He returned to his old allegiance, however, and in receiving Washington's resignation made a particularly graceful and eloquent reply. "You retire," said he in closing, "from the theatre of action with the blessings of your fellow citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command: it will continue to animate remotest

ages." He was long a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, Governor and member of the Convention which formed the national constitution. He was a Trustee of the College.

James Wilson was one of the most distinguished lawyers of his day. He was Professor of English in the College in 1773, received the degree of A.M. in 1766 and LL.D. in 1790. He founded the Law School of the University in 1790, the first on the Continent, was the first Professor of Law and a Trustee. He was a member of Congress until 1787, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and member of the Constitutional Convention, in which he was intellectually the ablest of the members. He is said to have had much, if not most, to do with the writing of the Constitution of the United States and was appointed a Justice of the National Supreme Court in 1789 by President Washington, who had already recognized his ability by placing his nephew Bushrod under him.

John Morgan graduated in 1757 and received his master's degree in 1760. He studied medicine under Dr. John Redman, a Trustee of the University, and afterwards in London, Edinburgh, Paris and Padua, obtaining his M.D. from Edinburgh in 1763. He was a member of many important foreign scientific societies and founded the Medical School of the University in 1765, it being the first on the Continent. He was active in founding the American Philosophical Society. In October, 1775, Congress appointed

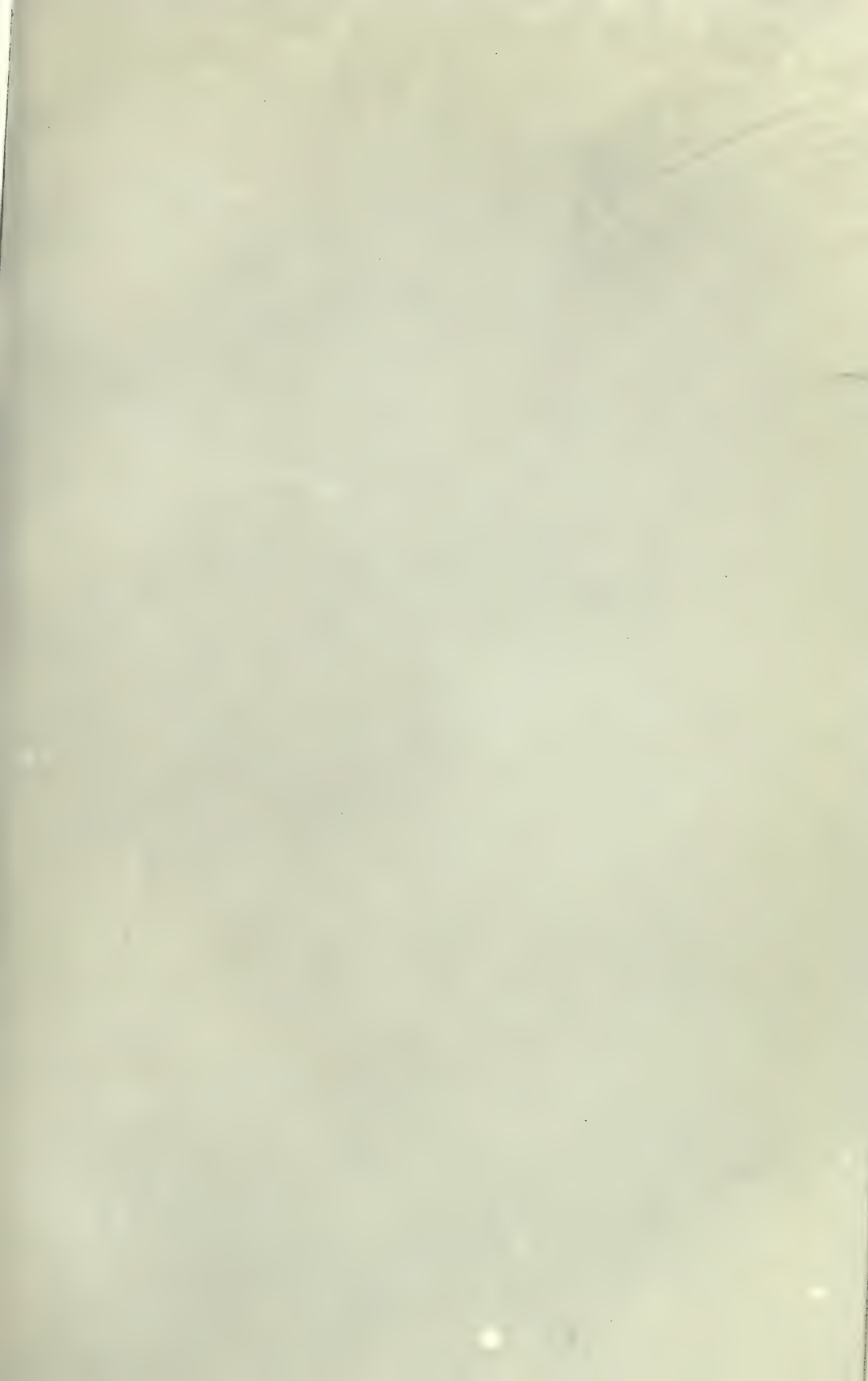
him Director General and Physician-in-Chief of the General Hospital of the American Army, thus bringing him into intimate relations with General Washington.

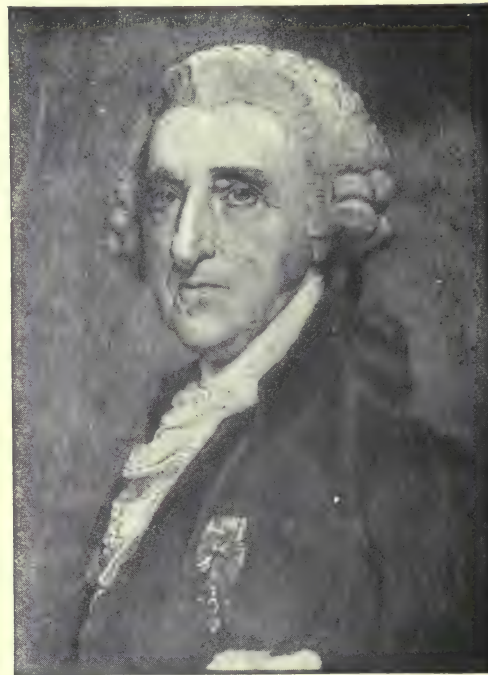
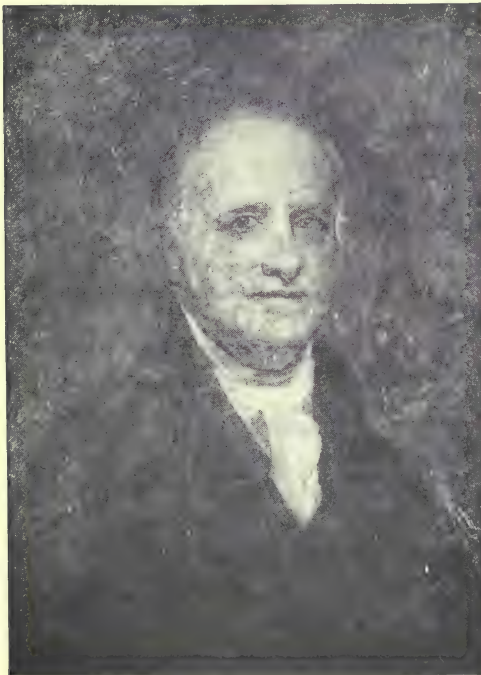
David Rittenhouse, A.M. 1761, the well-known astronomer, was a Trustee, Professor and Vice-Provost of the University. His orrery by which the revolutions of the heavenly bodies were presented more completely than ever before is justly famous and appears upon the seal of the University attached to Washington's diploma. Washington relied upon Rittenhouse to grind the glasses for his spectacles.

Philemon Dickinson, of the Class of 1759, was a soldier and statesman. He was a member of the Continental Congress and entered the Revolution as a Colonel of New Jersey troops, soon rising, as a Major-General, to the command of all the troops of his state. He displayed great bravery at the battle of Monmouth and was especially commended by Washington. As Chief Signal Officer of the Continental Army, he had much to do with Washington and was Cadwalader's second in his duel with Conway. After the war he became United States Senator from New Jersey.

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, of the Class of 1763, was a picturesque and romantic figure. At the outbreak of the Revolution he was the pastor of a church at Woodstock, Virginia. Having accepted a Colonel's commission at Washington's solicitation, he appeared in his pulpit with his uni-







ROBERT MORRIS  
RICHARD PETERS

JAMES WILSON  
THOMAS MCKEAN

form under his gown and after preaching a sermon on the wrongs the Colonists had suffered from Great Britain he proclaimed, "There is a time for all things—a time to preach, and a time to pray; but there is also a time to fight, and that time is now come." Then pronouncing the benediction he threw off his gown and took his place at the head of his recruits. He participated in many battles and became a Major General. After the war he was a member of Congress and United States Senator from Pennsylvania, but resigned before taking his seat. His figure is Pennsylvania's sole representative in Statuary Hall of the national capital.

Richard Peters graduated in 1761 and received his master's degree in 1765 and Doctor of Laws in 1827. He was a member of the Continental Congress, Assemblyman and Judge of the U. S. District Court. He commanded a company when the Revolution broke out and in 1776 was appointed by Congress Secretary of the Board of War. As the first Secretary of War he frequently came into contact with General Washington. He was a Trustee of the College and a famous wit. His hospitality at "Belmont," his country seat, now in Fairmount Park, was as lavish and widely known as was his stately mansion situated upon the eminence which commanded an extensive panorama of lovely country and winding river. Judge Peters tells of how upon one occasion in 1779 Washington wrote him "that all his powder was wet and that he was entirely without lead or



balls, so that, should the enemy approach, he must retreat." Peters was on his way to a gala occasion at the Spanish Ambassador's who lived in Mr. Chew's house on Third Street, when he received this alarming and what to us must seem incredible appeal. He was in despair, but meeting Robert Morris, who remarked his low state, he was relieved when that patriot assumed the whole responsibility and procured the munitions. When Washington was President he drove to "Belmont" whenever a morning of leisure permitted, and there enjoyed his host's vivacious conversation while walking with him for hours in the beautiful gardens and beneath the shade of the ancient trees.

James Tilton, bachelor of Medicine 1768 and doctor in 1771, was a Delawarean and entered the war as a lieutenant of light infantry. He soon became regimental surgeon, however, and after serving in several campaigns was called to the hospital department of the army, where he brought order out of chaos and established methodical procedure. He refused the chair of *Materia Medica* at his Alma Mater, preferring not to desert his country at a critical time. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis and soon after was elected to Congress. When the war of 1812 came Tilton was made Surgeon-General of the United States Army. He was a distinguished publicist and member of many important scientific societies.



BISHOP WHITE



PROVOST SMITH



PROVOST EWING





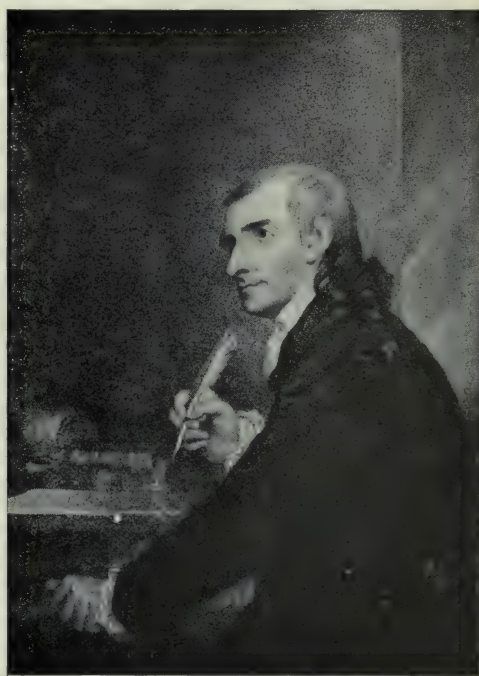
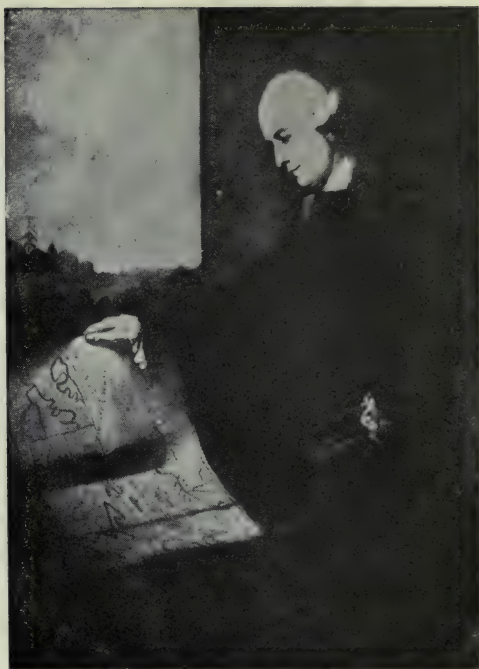
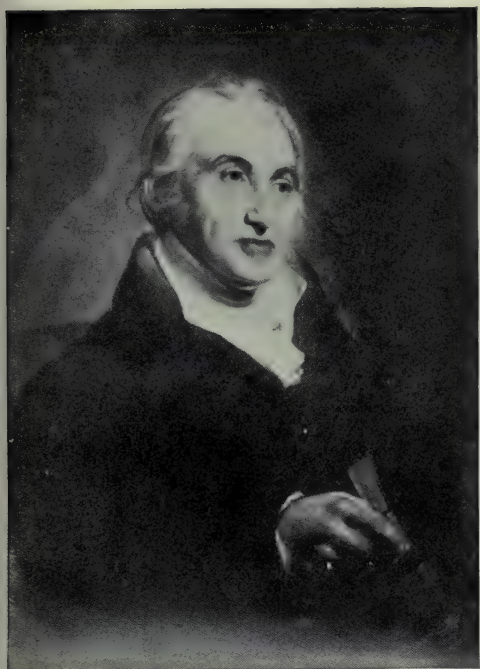
Jonathan Potts, of the Class of 1768, was made a doctor of Medicine in 1771 also. He delivered the valedictory at Commencement, emphasizing the advantage to be derived in the Study of Physic from a previous liberal education in the other sciences. He was a member of the Provincial Congress and upon the outbreak of hostilities was appointed physician-surgeon of the army for Canada and Lake George. In 1777 he became deputy director-general of the General Hospital in the Northern district. His work of reorganization and efficiency gained for him a commendatory vote of Congress and he was made director-general of the hospitals of the middle department. This brought him into the enormous task of caring for the sick and wounded at Valley Forge. From this exertion he died at the age of 36, before the independence of his country for which he had so ardently longed.

Jacob Duche, of the Class of 1757, was chaplain to the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776; Patrick Alison, of the Class of 1760, during 1776 and William White, 1765, from 1777 to 1801 with interruption from 1785 to 1789.

William White, of the Class of 1765, was chosen chaplain to Congress in 1777. He was riding with a friend when a messenger from Congress overtook him. Realizing the danger of enrolling with the patriots he hesitated a few moments, turned his horse's head and accompanied the emis-

sary to the Congress then sitting at York, Pennsylvania. He was the rector of the United Churches of Christ and St. Peter's and the first American Bishop of the Episcopal Church. He was made a Master of Arts in 1767 and a Doctor of Divinity in 1783. He was a Trustee from 1774 to 1836 and only lacked one vote of being chosen Provost. He had close and confidential relations with Washington, who attended Christ Church. The Bishop was often present at dinners of state and his residence on Walnut Street was the only place where President and Mrs. Washington allowed themselves to make a social call. The Bishop was the dispenser of the President's alms.

In 1762 at the age of 18 Tench Tilghman came to Philadelphia from Maryland. His father was a lawyer and soon became a prominent man in the Commonwealth and a Trustee of the University. Sympathizing with the loyalists, the elder Tilghman retired to Chestertown, Maryland, at the outbreak of hostilities, leaving his son a merchant in Philadelphia. Tench Tilghman's mother was the daughter of Tench Francis, Esquire, Attorney General of Pennsylvania. He was a founder and one of the first Trustees of the University. With Franklin he drew up its constitution and rules of government. His grandfather assumed the direction of his education and he entered the College in 1758, graduating A.B. in 1761. Soon after Lexington and Concord, Tench Tilghman became a Lieutenant in "The Silk Stockings," a



JOHN CADWALADER  
TENCH TILGHMAN

LAMBERT CADWALADER  
FRANCIS HOPKINSON





company composed of the young men of the best social position in Philadelphia. When it was merged into Washington's Army Tilghman was Captain. Trained in filial piety and the reverence of a son he found himself violating some of the tenderest sentiments of his nature, but in his relations with his father during the war there never was an alienation of feeling but mutual affection and respect was cherished to the end.

Thus disregarding pecuniary interests, personal comfort and family ties, Tench Tilghman became the most trusted and nearest of Washington's aides, "master of the most valuable secrets of the cabinet and the field" and proof against the many attempts made to alarm the general's suspicions as to his being near his person. In August, 1776, he became a member of Washington's family and served as his military aide and secretary throughout the war, being in every action in which the main army was engaged. In a letter General Washington wrote to the Hon. John Sullivan, a delegate to Congress, on the 11th of May, 1781, he speaks of the difficulties and disputes arising among the officers respecting the order of their promotion, and urges that it be settled on account of Mr. Tilghman as being especially deserving. Continuing he says: "He has been a zealous servant and slave to the public, and a faithful assistant to me for nearly five years, a great part of which time he refused to receive pay. Honor and gratitude interest me in his favor, and make me

solicitous to obtain his commission. His modesty and love of Concord placed the date of his expected commission at the first of April, 1777, because he would not take rank of Hamilton and Meade, who were declared aides in order (which he did not choose to be), before that period, although he had joined my family and done all the duties of one from the first of September preceding." This letter needs no comment. It is sufficient to show the character of the man and the esteem in which Washington held him. His commission as Lieutenant-Colonel as of April 1st, 1777, was issued to him May 30th, 1781, as well as his formal recognition as assistant secretary of the Commander-in-Chief. He sought no promotion but was content with the confidence and approbation of his chief.

Upon the surrender of Cornwallis, Washington selected Colonel Tilghman to bear the news to Thomas McKean (A.M. 1763, LL.D. 1785 and president of the Board of Trustees of the University), president of Congress then in session in Philadelphia. He asked, too, that the merits of his aide be "honored by the notice of your Excellency and Congress." The messenger reached Philadelphia in four days, having spread the joyful news to an anxious countryside. McKean was awakened in the middle of the night and the news given to the aroused city, the watchmen calling "Cornwallis is taken" with their announcement of the hours.



Congress presented Colonel Tilghman with a sword and horse fully accoutred.

As his service was about to close Washington wrote to him, "There are few men in the world to whom I am more attached by inclination than I am to you"; and "I shall never be more happy than in your company at Mt. Vernon." When Washington resigned his commission in that memorable scene before the Congress at Annapolis, Tench Tilghman stood by his side as they faced the President of Congress, Thomas Mifflin, of the Class of 1760.

In 1784 he entered into a partnership with Robert Morris, who had known him in his youth at college. The association was only terminated by the early death in 1786 of Colonel Tilghman from disease contracted through the hardships of the camp at Valley Forge in 1777. He was but 42 years old. Washington said of him:

"He left as fair a reputation as ever belonged to a human character. \* \* \* Midst all the sorrowings that are mingled on this melancholy occasion I venture to assert that none could have felt his death with more regret than I, because no one had higher opinions of his worth. \* \* \* There is this consolation, though, to be drawn that while living no man could be more esteemed, and since dead none is more lamented."

After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, Washington was called to the funeral of Mrs. Washington's son, John

Custis, for whom he had a sincere attachment. He then passed on to Mount Vernon for a few days and was in Philadelphia towards the end of November to stimulate Congress toward taking measures for following up the success of the allied arms and to plan for an early and decisive campaign the next year. During this time, from the 19th of November, 1781, to the 22nd of March, 1782, he lived at the house of Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, a Trustee of the University, at No. 110 (now 244) South Third Street, between Walnut and Spruce Streets and next door to the Powell house, still standing, where he was so frequently entertained. Washington rented from Mr. Chew, who lived at his country estate "Cliveden," the scene of the battle of Germantown. The house was a fine one and had spacious gardens, the only ones, remarks Ann Warder in her diary, besides Mr. Norris' in the city. Benjamin Chew, Jr., was of the Class of 1775 and delivered the valedictory at the commencement which Washington attended as we have seen.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University on December 5th, 1781, it was resolved that the Chief Justice, Thomas McKean, and Doctor James Hutchinson be a committee "to prepare an address to His Excellency General Washington on the subject of his late Glorious Success in Virginia, and that the Provost be requested to give his assistance in behalf of the Faculty." On Friday, the 7th of December, the committee reported an essay of An Address

which, being read and considered by paragraphs, was agreed to. Mr. Matlock was directed to wait upon the Faculty and procure their approbation to the address as altered and agreed to. On Monday the 10th the Board and Faculty proceeded to present the joint Address, the event being described as follows in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of December 11, 1781:

“Yesterday the Trustees and Faculty of the University of this State, waited on his Excellency General George Washington, presented the following address:

To his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, esquire,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America.

SIR:—

The Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, deeply impressed with a sense of the many important services you have rendered to America, happy in the protection which this Seminary of Learning, in common with others, has obtained by your exertions, and elated with the pleasing prospect of the progress of Science, and the establishment of peace and independence, beg leave to testify their participation of the General Joy, that is felt by all the Friends of their Country, on the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army. Penetrated with the most lively Sentiments of Gratitude to Heaven for the preservation of your impor-



tant Life, they feel an additional pleasure in the reflection, that it has pleased the Most High, who superintends and directs the Councils of States and Princes, to accomplish this Glorious event under the immediate auspices of your Excellency, in conjunction with the United Councils and Forces of America and France: an event which must tend to humble the prince of Britain, while it cements the union and Strengthens the affection of the confederate nations, and encircles, with unfading Glory, the head of that magnanimous Prince, to whom we are so much indebted, and which will transmit to Posterity, with Honour, the names of his intrepid Officers, particularly the Counts deGrasse and de-Rochambeau, who with distinguished Wisdom, alacrity, zeal and abilities, have Seconded the wishes of their Sovereign, by uniting their exertions in the Execution of your Excellency's judicious and well Concerted Plan.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Board of Trustees.

WM. MOORE, President.

In behalf of the Faculty,

JOHN EWING, Provost.

to which his Excellency, the General, was pleased to return the following answer:

To his Excellency, WILLIAM MOORE, esquire, President of the Board of Trustees; and the Reverend Mr. Ewing, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen:

Among the several congratulatory addresses I have had the honour of receiving from my fellow citizens on the late important success of the allied arms, I esteem none more highly than this of the Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. Convinced that science is the nurse of Liberty, I have ever made it a rule to protect and encourage, to the utmost of my power, all Seminaries of Learning; and inexpressably happy shall I be to think that my services have in any degree, contributed to the re-establishment of an institution, so eminently distinguished as that which you, Gentlemen, Patronize. It will afford a Very Sensible Satisfaction to the Generals of a nation, as celebrated for her progress in the arts as she is for her prowess in arms, to see their own names and that of their illustrious Sovereign, mentioned in so respectable and Grateful a Manner. You are perfectly right in attributing to their alacrity, Zeal and ability a great share in the Honour gained at York.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest Veneration,  
Gentlemen,

Your Most Obedient Humble Servt.,

GEORGE WASHINGTON."

It is interesting to know something of the Committee of Trustees which prepared this address.

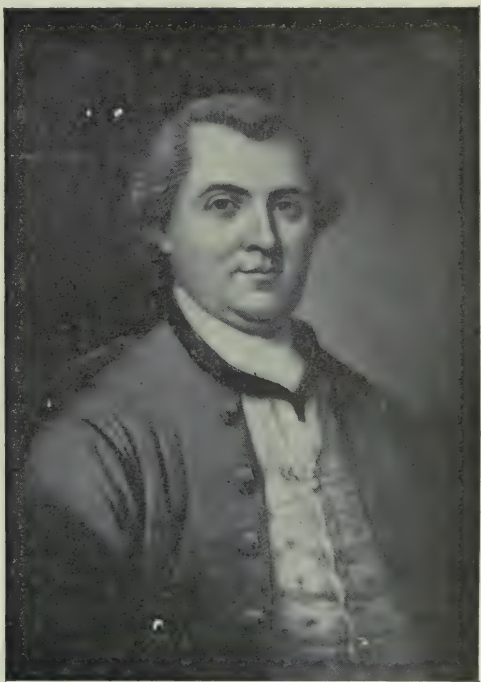
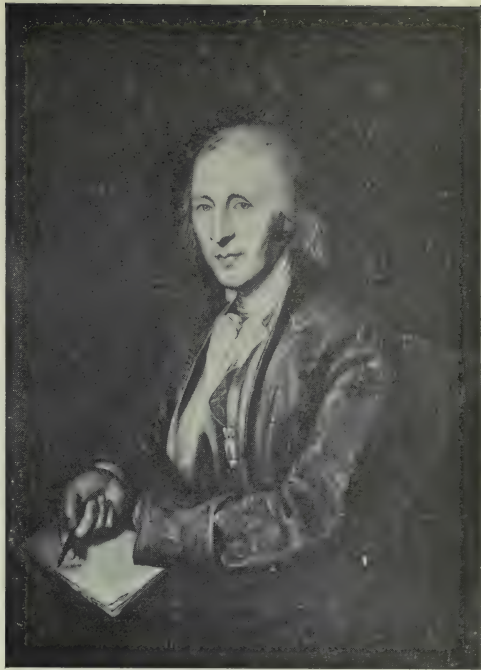
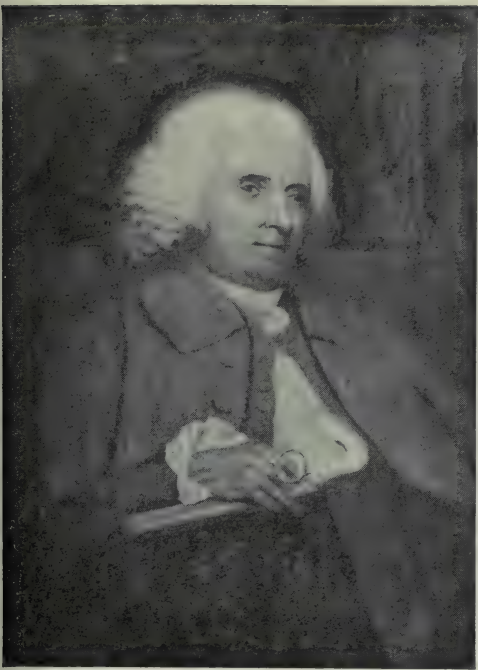
Thomas McKean, Trustee and President of Congress, was a famous man in his day. He was a member of the

Continental Congress, Governor and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. He took an active part in the convention which framed the Declaration of Independence and sent the earnest message to Cæsar Rodney which brought him on his famous ride to cast Delaware's vote for Independence. He was Colonel of a Regiment under Washington in 1776 and as President of Congress received the news of Cornwallis' surrender, brought by Tench Tilghman. He received the degree of Master of Arts in 1763 and Doctor of Laws in 1785.

James Hutchinson after studying in the College and Medical School received his degree in 1774. He became a Trustee and Professor of Materia Medica and Chemistry. He was abroad at the outbreak of the Revolution but hastened home and served as a surgeon in the Army, his most distinguished service being at Valley Forge. He was a frequent visitor at headquarters and was often consulted by Washington about medical matters. He did brave work in the yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia in 1793 and died from it. His descendants have continued their connection with the University to the present time.

John Ewing, the second Provost of the University, was a Marylander who was pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia from 1759 to 1802 and was Professor of Natural Philosophy in the College. He was elected Provost in 1780 and remained so until his death in 1802.





JOHN MORGAN  
JAMES TILTON

DAVID RITTENHOUSE  
JAMES HUTCHINSON



Edinburgh University made him a Doctor of Divinity in 1773 and the University of Pennsylvania a Master of Arts in 1759.

Before leaving the city, Washington again visited a Commencement at the University together with other distinguished persons. He saw before him more young men who were to make their mark: Caspar Wistar, James Craik, Peter du Ponceau, William White, Patrick Alison and others.

Let the *Pennsylvania Packet* of March 30th, 1782, describe the event:

"On Thursday, the 21st instant, a commencement was held in the hall of the university in this city, before a very crowded and polite audience, consisting of the honourable members of congress, the members of the supreme executive council of the state, the members of the assembly, his excellency general Washington and his family, with the family of his excellency the French minister, the Baron Steuben, and a large concourse of the most respectable citizens, when the degree of Bachelor in the arts was conferred on the following gentlemen, viz., messrs. Moses Bartram, Michael Byrnes, John Catlett, Joseph Clarkson, John Johnson, James Kelly, William Kennedy, Joseph Borden McKean, Thomas Memminger, William Nelson, Thomas Nelson, John Proudfoot, Thomas Stewart, Robert Brooke Voss, John Wade and Thomas Wharton. The degree of bache-



lor in medicine, was also conferred upon messrs. Ennels Martin, Charles Worthington, Elisha Cullen Dick, Walter Payne, John Gibson, Caspar Wistar, James Craik, Jun. and Nicholas Coxe. The degree of master of arts was conferred upon messrs. Andrew Gregg, Samuel Sterrett, and Peter Stephen du Ponceau. And the degree of doctor of divinity was conferred upon the revd. Mr. William White of the city of Philadelphia, the revd. Mr. Elihu Spencer, of Trenton, and the revd. Mr. Patrick Allison, of Baltimore.

The business of the day was opened with prayer by the revd. doctor Ewing, provost; and orations were delivered by the candidates, in the following order :

A latin salutatory oration, *de animi cultura*, by Thomas Stewart. A Forensic disputation on this question, "Whether the profession of the law is or is not for the benefit and happiness of society." James Kelly, Robert Brooke Moss, maintained the affirmative. Joseph McKean the negative. An oration on the benefit of the alliance between America and France, by John Catlett. An oration against the utility of the Greek and Latin classics, by Thomas Nelson. An oration in support of classical learning, by Thomas Memminger. An oration on sympathy, by Moses Bartram. An oration on cowardice, by John Wade. The degrees were then conferred, and immediately after was delivered the valedictory oration, in praise of knowledge, by Joseph Clarkson. The provost, after having given a solemn and

affecting charge to the graduates, concluded with prayer. A band of music played at proper intervals; and the performances appeared to give a general and high satisfaction to all who heard them."

We come now to the most important event which connects Washington with the University of Pennsylvania. On the 12th of June 1783 the following Trustees met: Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Helmuth, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Hopkinson, Dr. Sproat, Dr. Clarkson and Mr. I. B. Smith. Mr. John Sproat was appointed secretary. "A motion was made and seconded that it be recommended to the next full Board of Trustees (the present not being competent to determine the matter) to confer the following honorary Degrees. That is to say—

On his Excellency Genl. Washington the Degree of Doctor of Law, Rev. M. Christopher Kenzie the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, to be conferred at the next ensuing Commencement. But the present meeting not being competent to the business the same is referred to the next Board." How deliberate, how careful were these gentlemen though all were eager, no doubt, to do him honour.

The next meeting was on the 26th of June, 1783, and there were present the Chief Justice Thomas McKean, Doctors White, Bond, Hutchinson, Sproat, Mr. Rittenhouse, Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Bradford, Reverend Mr. Helmuth, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Clarkson, so the record runs,

and it was "Resolved that the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws be conferred on his Excellency General George Washington."

In the *Pennsylvania Packet* of Saturday, July 12, 1783, we find an account of the Commencement:

"Philadelphia, July 12.

On the 4th instant, being the anniversary of American independence, a commencement was held at the University in this city, before a very crowded assembly; a number of the principal officers of the state; part of his excellency the French Minister's family; and a great concourse of most respectable citizens, politely countenancing, and giving elegance to the literary entertainment.

About 10 o'clock, the honourable trustees, attended by the faculty of graduates in their robes, went in procession from the apparatus chamber, into the public hall, and took their seats.

The reverend doctor Ewing, provost, opened the business of the day with prayer. The exercises were then conducted in the order following:

A Latin salutatory oration, touching on a variety of interesting topics; particularly, the baneful influence of luxury, with regard to national principles and manners, by Mr. ——— Snodgrass.

An oration, sketching the plan of literature, classic and philosophical, observed in this institution, and noticing the



special provision made for attaining a masterly correctness and address in our vernacular tongue; by Mr. Stephen Sykes.

An oration, showing the essential connexion between the exterior figure of man, and his susceptibility of improvement in arts and sciences, by Mr. — Morris.

A Forensic disputation on dueling. Messrs. Ephraim Ramsey, and Joseph Thomas, maintained the lawfulness and expediency of the practice: messrs. G. Bartram and N. Grier maintained the negative. The arguments were acute, and judiciously arranged on each side. The provost's decision was direct and full against this Gothic phrensy.

An oration on the nature of government; illustrating the distinguishing excellencies of the democratic form: with observations immediately respecting the United-States; by Mr. Isaac Briggs.

An oration upon American affairs, embellished with remarks, immediately respecting the spirit of patriotism, and the generosity of France in the ever memorable alliance; by Mr. Richard Footman.

An oration containing humorous playful strictures upon some apprehended barbarisms of grammatical and metaphysical erudition; by Mr. John Chew Thomas.

Degrees were then conferred: That of bachelor in the Arts on the following gentlemen, viz: messrs. George Bartram, Isaac Briggs, Richard Footman, Nathaniel Grier, Anthony Morris, Ephraim Ramsey, James Snodgrass, Stephen

Sykes, Joseph Thomas and John Chew Thomas. The degree of bachelor in medicine, was conferred upon messrs. Solomon Berkhead, John Morris, John Watson, Thomas Waring, of Charleston, South Carolina. The degree of master of arts, was conferred on messrs. Erasmus Kelly, John Caldwell, John Bleakley, Samuel Sitgreaves, James Gray, Joseph Rush, Peter Chevalier, and Benjamin Morris.

The degree of doctor of physic was conferred on doctor Hugh Shields, he having received the same degree before at Edinburgh.

The degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on the reverend Samuel Magaw, vice provost, and on the reverend John Christopher Kunzie, professor of Hebrew and Philosophy in the University.

The faculty and trustees desirous of showing every mark of distinction, to the illustrious man, to whom America is exceedingly indebted, conferred upon his excellency general GEORGE WASHINGTON, esq. commander in chief of the American army, the degree of doctor of laws.

The valedictory oration was then delivered by Mr. W. Stewart; it had been handsomely prepared—various sentimental, delicate, pathetic; and the speaker did it justice.

A solemn charge, suited to bring home with a collected power, philosophy and virtue, to the bosoms and business of the young gentlemen, was given by the provost.

The vice-provost concluded with prayer.

# *S*imilibus et singulis. Has Litras Secturis *S*alutem

*Amabilem* *fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*

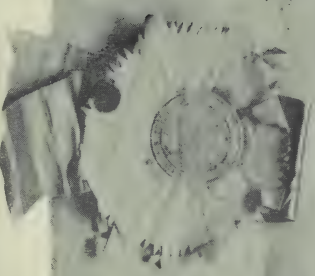
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*

*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*

*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*

*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*

*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*  
*fratrem* *et* *amicum* *Domini* *Washington*







A band of music playing at proper intervals, improved the general entertainment."

It is interesting to note in the description of these early Commencements the evident importance of the event, the attendance of distinguished public personages, the great length and varied character of the programme and the participation of the graduates as the principal part of it. Quite refreshing as compared with the formal routine of to-day with one visiting speaker of distinction.

Washington was not present to receive his degree and it is not known who, if anyone, received it for him. With his headquarters at Newburgh, New York, he was at the time on a visit to the northern posts in the state and the first opportunity the Trustees had in those days of long and precarious communication, of presenting his diploma was when he had said farewell to his army in November, taken leave of his officers at Fraunce's Tavern in New York City and was on his way to resign his commission to Congress then sitting in Annapolis. He stopped in Philadelphia to adjust his accounts with the Comptroller of the Treasury, accounts kept in his own handwriting and with the utmost exactness.

The Trustees met on the 11th of December, 1783, and the propriety of presenting an Address to his Excellency General George Washington was taken into consideration. Whereupon Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Bradford and Mr. Bryan were appointed a committee for the purpose. On December

12th they met again and sent for the Faculty, who attended. The address was read and adopted. Let us see who the men were who prepared it.

Francis Hopkinson graduated in 1757 and took the Master of Arts degree in 1760 and that of Doctor of Laws in 1790. He was one of the most prominent patriots of the Revolutionary war, was a member of Congress, Assembly, Judge and signer of the Declaration. He was a musician and a writer of ability, in fact the most prolific writer of both prose and verse who ever graduated from the College. He became a Trustee in 1778 and his family have maintained their interest in the University to the present day.

William Bradford, Jr., (A.M. 1781) was a son of Colonel William Bradford, printer and soldier of the Revolution. He, too, served in the war and became a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a Trustee by virtue of his office of Attorney General of the State. He later became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and finally Attorney General of the United States.

George Bryan was a Trustee on account of his office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He was a man of large influence and prominence in the state.

The minute book of the Board of Trustees has a blank page where this address should be and there are two copies of it among the Washington papers in the Library of Congress. It was customary to send a copy of such things to the



recipient in advance of the formal presentation so that he would have an opportunity to have a reply ready, which accounts for Washington's having two copies, and the secretary was evidently neglectful or in too much of a hurry to retain any record for the minutes.

The President of the Board of Trustees at this time was John Dickinson, a Maryland Quaker. He was the most conspicuous person in the service of Delaware and Pennsylvania from 1760 until his term expired as President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania in 1785. From the meeting of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765 until his death he was a prominent figure in national history. He was the first to advocate resistance, on constitutional grounds, to the ministerial plan of taxation, and for a long period after the enforcement of the Boston Port Bill he controlled the councils of the country. He courageously maintained that the Declaration of Independence was inopportune and so sank at once from the position of a leader to that of a martyr to his opinions. However, after it was found that compromise was impossible and the step was taken he proved his patriotism and became a General in the Army. In 1779 he was returned to Congress from Delaware, and in the next year was president of that State.

In the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States he took a leading part and prepared many memorable state papers at the request of the Continental

Congress. He is perhaps best known for his "Farmer's Letters," printed in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* and addressed to the people of Great Britain, which secured the repeal of the Stamp Act, so well were they regarded abroad.

The address is endorsed by Jonathan Trumbull, one of Washington's aides, "Address of the University of Philada." and by Washington himself "December 13, 1783." The draft of his answer in the Library of Congress is in the handwriting of David Humphreys, his aide, and the diploma is on parchment measuring  $20\frac{1}{4} \times 25$  inches. The *Pennsylvania Packet* of Thursday, December 18th, 1783, gives them both in full:

"Saturday last the following ADDRESS was presented to his Excellency General WASHINGTON, by the Trustees and Faculty of the University of the State of Pennsylvania:

SIR,

The Trustees and Faculty of the University of the State of Pennsylvania view, with peculiar joy, the conclusion of the war, and congratulate your Excellency on the establishment of peace.

When they consider how many important interests were involved in the late contest, they cannot suppress their acknowledgements to your Excellency, under whose auspices it has been so happily conducted.

1/17

The Trustees and Faculty of the University of the State of Pennsylvania view with peculiar joy the conclusion of the war, and congratulate your Excellency on the establishment of Peace.

When they consider how many important interests were involved in the late Contest, they cannot suppress their acknowledgments to your Excellency, under whose auspices it has been so happily conducted.

In this arduous struggle for "Peace, Liberty and Safety," the welfare of the Arts and Sciences was intimately concerned; they trembled at the dangers that surrounded them, they crowded to your Standard for Safety, -and in you they have found a Protector.





Sensible of her obligations and ambitious of enrolling your  
justly celebrated name in the Catalogue of her sons, — this  
University presents your Excellency with her highest Honours,  
and joins the wreath of Science to the Laurels of the Hero.

We shall deem ourselves honoured by your accepting this  
Testimony of our Gratitude and Estimation of your literary  
merits; and we hope the rising generation under our care,  
when hereafter they shall see their names enrolled with  
yours, will be fired with emulation to copy your dis-  
tinguished virtues, and learn from your example to  
grow great in the service of their Country.

Long may you live to enjoy the sweets of that  
prosperity and peace, which your arms have given  
to America.

22 We pray Heaven to reward you with its  
choicest blessings, that you may be as happy in the  
shades of retirement, as you have been illustrious in the  
fields of glory. —





In this arduous struggle for "Peace, Liberty and Safety," the welfare of the Arts and Sciences was intimately concerned—they trembled at the dangers that surrounded them—they crowded to your standard for safety—and in you they have found an illustrious protector. Sensible of her obligations, and ambitious of enrolling your (justly celebrated) name in the catalogue of her sons, this University presents your Excellency with her highest honors, and joins the Wreath of Science to the Laurels of the Hero. We shall deem ourselves honored by your accepting this testimony of our gratitude and estimation of your literary merits, and we hope the rising generation under our care, when hereafter they shall see their names enrolled with yours, will be fired with emulation to copy your distinguished virtues, and learn (from your example) to grow great in the service of their country.

Long may you live, to enjoy the sweets of that prosperity and peace, which your arms have, under God, given to America. We pray Heaven to reward you with its choicest blessings, and to make you as happy in the shades of retirement, as you have been illustrious in the field of glory.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1783.

His Excellency's ANSWER.

To the TRUSTEES and FACULTY of the University of  
Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I experience a singular satisfaction in receiving your congratulations on the establishment of peace, and the security of those important interests which were involved in the fate of the war.

Desirous of being considered the friend, and (as far as consists with my abilities) the Patron of the Arts and Sciences, I must take the liberty of expressing my sense of the obligations I am under to the Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, for paying me so flattering a compliment, and on so pleasing a subject.

I accept, Gentlemen, the honors you have had the goodness to confer upon me, with the greatest deference and respect. May the revolution prove extensively propitious to the cause of literature—may the tender plants of science, which are cultivated by your assiduous care, under the fostering influence of Heaven, soon arrive at an uncommon point of maturity and perfection—and may this University long continue to diffuse, throughout an enlightened empire, all the blessings of virtue, learning and urbanity.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1783.                   GEO. WASHINGTON."

Washington's next visit of consequence to Philadelphia was in 1787 when he presided over the Constitutional Con-

To the Trustees & Faculty of the University of the  
State of Pennsylvania

Gentlemen

I experience a singular satisfaction in receiving your congratulations on the ~~re-establishment of Peace~~ <sup>restoration of Peace</sup> & the ~~happy conclusion of the war~~ <sup>happy conclusion of the war</sup>, and the recovery of those important interests which were involved in the war.

Desirous of being considered the friend, and as far as possible with me a helper, the ~~interests~~ <sup>interests</sup> of the Arts & Sciences, I must take the liberty of expressing ~~on this occasion~~ <sup>on this occasion</sup> my sense of the obligations I am under to the Trustees & Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for





Having me as <sup>flattering</sup> ~~honoured~~ a compliment, &  
on as pleasing a subject.

I accept, Gentlemen, the honors you  
have had the goodness to confer upon me,  
with the greatest deference. Respect—

~~may the rising generation emulate your~~  
~~valuable example~~ <sup>the revolution</sup> ~~has the~~  
~~prose extensively~~ <sup>of the cause</sup>  
~~of literature~~ <sup>of literature</sup> ~~and was the gentle~~  
~~seed of heaven~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~continue to foster the~~  
~~under plants of science~~ <sup>and make them</sup>  
~~work good to~~ <sup>that the phi</sup>  
~~beneficial studies of retirement~~ <sup>and the</sup>  
~~more public to the of civil life~~ <sup>may</sup>  
~~become more valuable than the~~  
~~field of glory~~ <sup>and in parliament</sup>  
~~may the under plants of science~~ <sup>which</sup>  
~~are cultivated by your assiduous care~~  
~~under~~



(under the fostering influence of Heaven,  
soon arrive at an uncommon point  
of maturity & perfection - and may thus  
be enabled to continue to diffuse  
throughout our happy Empire, all  
the treasures of virtue, learning, &  
~~the~~ religion.



WASHINGTON

From a pastel of 1799 by his physician, Elisha Cullen Dick, 1782 M.





vention. He lodged, as has been said, with Robert Morris and accompanied Mrs. Morris to the College to hear a reading for charity. We find in his diary many records of his intimacy with University men. He "drank Tea" with Robert Morris, Benjamin Franklin, John Cadwalader, Thomas Willing, Richard Peters, Benjamin Chew, James Hutchinson, Francis Hopkinson, Thomas Mifflin, Philemon Dickinson, Thomas McKean, John Redman and many others.

It has already been mentioned that Washington had a high regard for James Wilson. In 1790 when he was President and Judge Wilson was Professor of Law at the University he attended, on December 15th, the introductory lecture in College Hall which was the beginning of the first law school in America. Mrs. Washington accompanied the President on this important occasion, as did also the Vice President John Adams, both houses of Congress, President Thomas Mifflin of Pennsylvania and both houses of the Legislature, "together with a great number of ladies and gentlemen, the whole composing a most brilliant and respectable audience."

As has been said, Washington placed his nephew Bushrod under James Wilson for the study of the law. He became a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Two other nephews, George Steptoe and Augustine Wash-

ington, were entered in the College by their uncle and were of the Class of 1792.

When Washington was President the citizens built a mansion for him at Ninth and Market Streets. He declined, however, to accept this honour and rented a house from Robert Morris near the corner of High and Sixth Streets for \$3,000 a year. The University occupied the Presidential Mansion until 1829.

After he returned to Mt. Vernon for his last years, Elisha Cullen Dick of the Class of 1782 Medicine, who was settled in practice at Alexandria, Virginia, became one of the family physicians. He was the Worshipful Master of the Masonic Order in the District of Columbia and walked arm in arm with Washington when the corner stone of the Capitol was laid. Dr. Dick was the first to arrive at the bedside of the dying General and remained with him until the end.

It is a coincidence that an alumnus of the University was close to Washington at the beginning and end of his career. In his first military service for the state of Virginia in 1754 when he led a force against the Indian allies of the French at Fort Necessity he formed a warm attachment for Dr. James Craik, the Scotch surgeon of one of his regiments. The doctor became a faithful and confidential friend for the remainder of his life and was his family physician. They spent much time together at Mt. Vernon and in traveling. They served together in Braddock's campaign and Washing-

ton appointed him assistant director-general of the Hospital Department of the Middle district, including the states between the Hudson and Potomac Rivers in 1777. Soon after this Dr. Craik warned Washington of his secret enemies in the Conway Cabal.

Their last journey together was taken in 1784 when they made a tour of the land on the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. In his last illness Dr. Craik was immediately sent for and near his last words were, "Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go." As the end came Dr. Craik put his hands over his eyes and he expired without a struggle or a sigh.

On Washington's birthday in 1794, at noon, the faculty waited upon him in person to present their felicitations, which he graciously acknowledged. Since 1826 the University of which he was the friend and patron has celebrated his birthday as an especial occasion to do honour to one who is "enrolled in the catalogue of her sons," hoping, as did those early fathers, that "the rising generation under our care, when hereafter they shall see their names enrolled with yours, will be fired with emulation to copy your distinguished virtues, and learn (from your example) to grow great in the service of their country."















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